

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:
a storage device;
a controller connected to the storage device through a first network connection, a television output, a remote control receiver, and a processor configured to receive instructions through the remote control receiver, to retrieve content from the storage device, and provide corresponding signals to the television output; and
an interface to a second network.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a remote server accessible through the interface to the second network, the remote server storing content organized as one or more media files, the system configured to retrieve content from the remote server and store the content on the storage device.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein the interface to the second network connects the second network to a computer including the storage device.
4. The system of claim 2 wherein the interface to the second network connects the second network to the controller, the controller storing the retrieved content on the storage device.
5. The system of claim 2 wherein the remote server includes a website that provides the content.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the controller emulates a computer running software to interact with the website

7. The system of claim 5 wherein the controller emulates a computer that includes the storage device.
8. The system of claim 2 wherein the content on the remote server includes one or more movies.
9. The system of claim 2 wherein the content on the remote server includes at least one of news, music, television shows, games, music videos, or sports events.
10. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is integrated into a television set.
11. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is integrated into a set-top box.
12. The system of claim 11 wherein the set-top box includes a satellite receiver.
13. The system of claim 11 wherein the set-top box includes a cable receiver.
14. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller is integrated into at least one of a video cassette recorder, a digital versatile disc player, a digital video recorder, a wireless access point, a digital subscriber line transceiver, or a router.
15. The system of claim 1 wherein the controller generates a user interface within the signals to the television output, a user providing selections within the user interface rendered on a television set connected to the television output using a remote control connected in a communicating relationship with the remote control receiver of the controller.
16. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a computer including the storage device;
 - a remote server connected to the second network; and

a television connected to the television output,
wherein the controller provides commands to the computer to download content from the remote server in response to input received from a user through a user interface rendered on the television.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the interface to the second network is coupled to the controller, the controller receiving content from the remote server and transmitting the content to the storage device.

18. The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a computer including the storage device;
a remote server connected to the second network; and
a television connected to the television output,
wherein the controller provides content from the computer to the television in response to input received from a user through a user interface rendered on the television.

19. The system of claim 1 wherein the television output provides high-definition television signals.

20. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote control receiver includes an infrared interface.

21. The system of claim 1 wherein the remote control receiver includes a radio frequency interface.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the radio frequency interface includes a Bluetooth interface.

23. The system of claim 1 wherein the interface to the second network includes a broadband connection.

24. Computer executable code embodied in a computer readable medium comprising:

computer executable code for operating a controller to retrieve content from a remote server and store the content on a storage device connected to the controller through a local network;

computer executable code for retrieving the content from the storage device and displaying the content on a television connected to the controller; and

computer executable code for generating a user interface on the television to control retrieval and display of the content on the television.

25. The computer executable code of claim 24 further comprising:

computer executable code for retrieving content from the remote server to the controller and transferring the content to the storage device.

26. The computer executable code of claim 24 further comprising:

computer executable code for operating a computer connected through the local network to the controller and including the storage device such that the computer downloads the content from the remote server and stores the content on the storage device.

27. A system comprising:

a computer including a storage device that stores content organized as one or more media files; and

a controller comprising a television output, a control interface, and a wireless interface, the control interface adapted to receive control signals for operation of the controller, and the wireless interface connected in a communicating relationship with the computer, the controller configured to retrieve the stored media from the computer through the wireless interface and provide signals to the television output suitable for interpretation and display on a television set.

28. A system comprising:

a plurality of devices connected in a communicating relationship through a first network, a first one of the devices including a storage unit and a second one of the devices including a connection to a second network, the second one of the devices including an emulator that presents the plurality of devices to the second network as a single device including at least the storage unit of the first device.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein the first one of the devices is a personal computer.

30. The system of claim 28 wherein the connection to the second network includes a broadband connection.

31. The system of claim 28 wherein the first network includes a wireless network.